

Capsule Summary
SM-440
Lewis T. Clarke House
Flat Iron Road
Private

Circa 1923

The Lewis T. Clarke House is significant as an example of local interest in the importation of fashionable architectural styles to St. Mary's County. The two-and-a-half story structure, with its decoratively shingled cross gables, represents a marked departure from the plain, two-story longitudinal elevations of most early twentieth century St. Mary's county farm houses. In addition, the exterior of the Clarke House is relatively well-preserved. Alterations to the house include the addition of artificial siding and a few replacement windows. Original outbuildings on the property included a wood shed, two tobacco barns, a corn house, a stable/garage, and a meathouse. Of these, the meathouse, garage, and one tobacco barn survive.

The current owner of the Clarke House has suggested that it may be a Sears, Roebuck, & Company mail order house. Floor boards, exposed in the dining room, bear the writing "Lewis T. Clarke - Porto Bello" suggesting that this material was shipped by steamboat to the landing at Porto Bello. Further, sheetrock exposed on the second floor is marked with the company name "Sears, Roebuck, & Company" and the dates 1906 and 1911.

SM-440, Lewis T. Clarke House
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930.

Historic Period Theme: Architecture
Economic

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: Residence
Undertaking establishment

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. **SM 440**

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common **Lewis T. Clarke House**

2. Location

street & number **Flat Iron Road**☐ not for publicationcity, town **Great Mills**☒ vicinity ofcongressional district **5**state **Maryland**county **St. Mary's**

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name **Pamela Ann and Stephen Schryler**street & number **Flat Iron Road**telephone no.: **(301) 994 2615**city, town **Great Mills**state and zip code **Maryland 20634**

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. **St. Mary's County Courthouse**liber **MRB 153**

street & number

folio **2**city, town **Leonardtown**state **Maryland**

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. **SM 440**

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 3

The Lewis T. Clarke House is located on the west side of Flat Iron Road near Great Mills in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The house stands on a generous lot planted with deciduous trees and bushes. Two outbuildings are located to the northwest of the house. A housing development is located on the south and east sides of the property while a field stretches to the north of the house. A tree line acts as the lot's western border. The house faces east.

Built around 1923, the Clarke House is a two-and-a-half story, three bay frame structure with a side hall/double pile plan. The house has a concrete pier foundation which has been infilled with cinderblocks. The exterior of the house is sheathed with vinyl siding which covers the original weatherboards. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The east (main) elevation is pierced by two two-over-two sash windows with louvered shutters and a partially glazed entrance door. A porch supported by Doric columns extends across the east facade of the house. The second floor is pierced by three shuttered two-over-two sash windows. The roofline is broken by a substantial cross gable sheathed with sawtooth and half-round shingles. The cross gable is pierced by a lunette.

The south elevation is pierced on the first floor by one two-over-two sash window and one one-over-one sash window with louvered shutters. The second floor is lit by two shuttered two-over-two sash windows. The eave of this gable end elevation is finished with cornice returns and pierced by one two-over-two sash window. An interior brick chimney pierces the roof ridgeline of the south side of the house. A one-story kitchen wing is attached to the rear of the house. This wing is pierced by a four-light-over-three-panel door and a six-over-six sash windows with louvered shutters.

The west elevation of the one-story wing is blind and finished with cornice returns. A shed roof addition, formerly a porch, extends to the east of the wing and is pierced by a modern window. The main block of the house is pierced by three two-over-two sash windows. The roofline is broken by a cross gable which is sheathed with sawtooth and half-round shingles. As on the east elevation, the eave is pierced by a lunette.

The north elevation of the kitchen wing, pierced by a four-light-over-three panel door, is obscured by the enclosed porch. The former porch is pierced by a modern entrance door and a one-over-one sash window with louvered shutters. The

8. Significance

Survey No. SM 440

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ☐ Unknown Builder/Architect ☐ Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Lewis T. Clarke House is significant as an example of local interest in the importation of fashionable architectural styles to St. Mary's County. The two-and-a-half story structure, with its decoratively shingled cross gables, represents a marked departure from the plain, two-story longitudinal elevations of most early twentieth century St. Mary's county farm houses. In addition, the exterior of the Clarke House is relatively well-preserved. Alterations to the house include the addition of artificial siding and a few replacement windows. Original outbuildings on the property included a wood shed, two tobacco barns, a corn house, a stable/garage, and a meathouse. Of these, the meathouse, garage, and one tobacco barn survive.

Lewis T. Clarke, a farmer, funded construction of the house on a fifteen acre lot around 1923. Up until the time of his marriage, Clarke also carried on an undertaking business on the site. Clarke built caskets on the first floor of the two-story garage located next to the house. Related equipment was kept on the second floor of the building. When he closed the business, Clarke sold his horses and hearse to Dick Robinson, a resident of the nearby village of Dameron. Robinson then moved to Leonardtown and established an undertaking business there which later became the Brinsfield Funeral Home.

The current owner of the Clarke House has suggested that it may be a Sears, Roebuck, & Company mail order house. Floor boards, exposed in the dining room, bear the writing "Lewis T. Clarke - Porto Bello" suggesting that this material was shipped by steamboat to the landing at Porto Bello. Further, sheetrock exposed on the second floor is marked with the company name "Sears, Roebuck, & Company" and the dates 1906 and 1911.

Sears, Roebuck, and Company advertised mail order houses for sale between 1908 and 1940. These ready-to-assemble designs included pre-cut lumber and instructions which were shipped to the customer by rail. Prior to that time, Sears had begun marketing building materials. The company popularized the use of sheet plaster, the precursor of today's sheetrock, as an alternative to wood lath and plaster.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. **SM 440**

See attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Verbal boundary description and justification
Acre Surrounding House

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County Planning & Zoningdate September 1994

street & number _____

telephone _____

city or town Leonardtownstate Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

SM-440, Lewis T. Clarke House

St. Mary's County

7.1 Description

decorative porch roofline consists of a shallow cross gable sheathed with half-round shingles. A wood deck extends northward from the kitchen wing. The main block of the house is pierced by one one-over-one and one two-over-two sash window with louvered shutters. The second floor is pierced by two shuttered two-over-two sash windows. The eave of this gable end elevation is finished with cornice returns and pierced by one two-over-two sash window.

The interior of the house consists of a side stair hall and a dining room and parlor on the south side. Much of the original interior woodwork has been removed and stored for refinishing and future replacement. The original stair remains intact. The second floor consists of two bedrooms while the upper half story is an open loft space.

Three outbuildings are located on the property. Closest to the house is a gable roofed meathouse. The structure is supported by concrete piers and sheathed with weatherboards. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A vertical panel door pierces the east elevation. A small cinderblock pumphouse is located next to the meathouse. A large, two-story garage stands nearby. The garage is sheathed and roofed with corrugated metal. Three barn doors pierce the first floor of its east elevation. The second floor is pierced by one window opening.

SM-440, Lewis T. Clarke House
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Pamela Ann Schuyler and Stephen J. Schuyler
FROM: Barton P. Anderson, by F. Michael Harris, his attorney in fact.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 153, folio 2.
DATE: August 8, 1983.
NOTES: Transfer of 3.70 acres being a portion of two tracts in DBK 255/94 and MRB 88/438.

TO: Barton P. Anderson
FROM: William J. Achten and Cynthia G. Achten
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber MRB 88, folio 438.
DATE: January 17, 1981.
NOTES: Transfer of two parcels, one being 2.4 acres and one being .178 acres, being a part of DBK 255/44.

TO: William J. and Cynthia G. Achten
FROM: Eugene Louis Kopp and Diane L. Kopp, and Ronald L. Leonard and Theresa V. Leonard
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber DBK 267, folio 274.
DATE: February 28, 1977.
NOTES: Transfer of Parcel 1 being 2.4 acres same as DBK 185/144 and Parcel 2 being .173 acres same as DBK 211/197.

TO: Eugene Louis Kopp and Diane L. Kopp
FROM: Raymond T. Birch and Ada Birch
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber DBK 185, folio 144.
DATE: November 15, 1972.
NOTES: Transfer of 2.4 acres, same as DBK 143/171.

TO: Raymond T. and Ada Birch
FROM: Fred A. and Marie N. Brewer
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber DBK 143, folio 171.
DATE: July 26, 1968.
NOTES: Transfer of two tracts, one being 2 acres and one being 15 1/10 acres. The same as CBG 77/285.

TO: Fred A. and Marie N. Brewer
FROM: Nettie M. Clarke, widow
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 77, folio 285.
DATE: October 6, 1958.
NOTES: Transfer of 2 acres being the same as EBA 19/286 and of 15 1/10 acres SM-

— 440, Lewis T. Clarke House
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

being the same as JMM 2/199 and RGC 3/544.

TO: Lewis T. Clarke
FROM: Emily A. Clarke
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EBA 19, folio 286.
DATE: September 30, 1920.
NOTES: Transer of 2 acres being "Part of Plum Point."

TO: Nettie M. Clarke, widow
FROM: Lewis T. Clarke
RECORD: St. Mary's County Testamentary Record, Liber RGC 3, folio 544.
DATE: April 21, 1958.
NOTES: Transfer of Clarke's real and personal property. Real Estate Inventory (RGC 4/19) lists 17 acres including two tobacco barns, a garage, a dwelling house (no plumbing in dwelling house).

— TO: Lewis T. Clarke
FROM: Oswald and Fannie Unger
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 2, 199.
DATE: March 5, 1924.
NOTES: Transfer of 15 1/10 acres known as "Part of Plum Point" and more recently as "Stoney Run." Being part of EBA 5/101 and EBA 6/289. Price: \$500

— TO: Oswald Unger
FROM: Charles Weyard, widower.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 6, folio 289.
DATE: March 20, 1907.
NOTES: Transfer of "Part Plum Point" more recently "Stoney Run" being 204 acres located "on both sides of the Public Road leading from Great Mills to Downsville and adjoining the farm of the late George Colton, known as the 'Warehouse Farm' or 'Plum Point' on the east, south, and west ..." being the same as EBA 5/101.

— SM-440, Lewis T. Clarke House
St. Mary's County
8.3 Significance

—

Notably, none of the designs for Sears houses illustrated in Houses By Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck, and Company match the design of the Lewis Clarke House. In fact, the design of the house is really more similar to those illustrated in earlier publications such as Palliser's New Cottage Homes and Details of 1887 and Radford American Homes of 1903. While it is not possible at this point to definitively determine whether the Clarke House is a Sears kit house, it is clear that Sears materials were used in the construction of the dwelling.

SM-440, Lewis T. Clarke House
St. Mary's County
8.4 Significance

The advertisement copied below is for Sears brand Sheet Plaster like that used in the Clarke House.

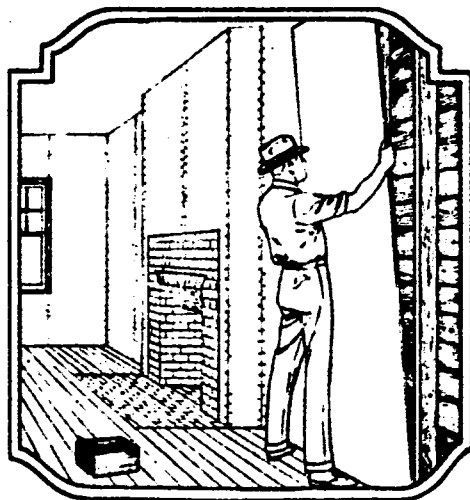
Source: Sears, Roebuck Catalog of Houses. 1926. New York: Dover Publications Inc. and Athenaeum of Philadelphia, 1991.

Goodwall SHEET PLASTER

Build Your Home in Less Time and at Less Cost

Goodwall Sheet Plaster sold with any "Honor Bilt" modern home. Look for "OPTION" at bottom of page on which house you plan to build is described. It quotes the cost of Sheet Plaster and Plaster Finish to take the place of wood lath.

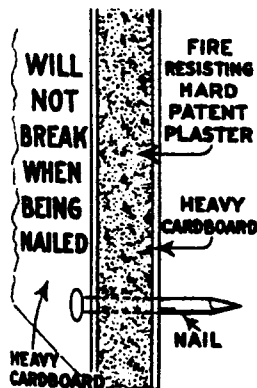
You can save time in building and move into your home earlier if you cover the walls with Goodwall Sheet Plaster. In thousands of homes, in every section of the country, Goodwall Sheet Plaster is giving the greatest satisfaction. It is a fire resisting gypsum rock composition plaster of even thickness between two sheets of heavy cardboard. These cardboards are so saturated with the fire resisting gypsum composition that they make Goodwall Sheet Plaster far more fire resisting than regular lath and plaster. It comes



in sheets in convenient sizes and takes the place of regular lath and plaster at less cost and with less labor.

Clean, Lasting and Easy to Apply

Illustration shows Goodwall Sheet Plaster applied to studing. It is given a coat of our specially prepared Hard Plaster and Top Coat Hard Plaster Finish. You will then have fire resisting walls, with a perfectly smooth surface, which can be tinted any desired color or decorated like any other plastered wall.



Actual Thickness $\frac{3}{4}$ -Inch Sheets

Use Goodwall Sheet Plaster

It enables you to do a better job for less money and can be applied by yourself.

It is better in service and strength than a lath and plaster wall.

It does away with lath stains.

It deadens sound as effectively as lath and plaster.

It is vermin proof and can be painted, papered or kalsomined.

It can be covered with a plaster coat of any thickness, but $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch Hard Plaster and $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch Top Coat Hard Plaster will be sufficient to make a smooth and seamless wall.

It is dry. No need to wait for weeks to drive the dampness out.

It can be removed in sections for plumbing repairs.

It is clean. No muss and dirt when you apply it.

It is strong. Send for a sample and try to break it with your hands.

It cuts out cost of lath; none needed with Goodwall Sheet Plaster.

It will not break when nailed. It is tough and durable.

It can be cut with a saw, or broken with a clean edge by scoring the cardboard on both sides with a knife, breaking where scored.



Plaster Finish Sticks Firmly to Goodwall Sheet Plaster

SM-440, Lewis T. Clarke House
St. Mary's County
9.1 Major Bibliographical References

Birch, Ada. Personal Interview, September 1994.

Palliser's New Cottage Homes and Details. New York: Palliser, Palliser, and Company, 1887.

Pearl, Susan G. "Victorian Pattern Book Houses in Prince George's County, Maryland." Prince George's County, MD: Historic Preservation Commission, 1988.

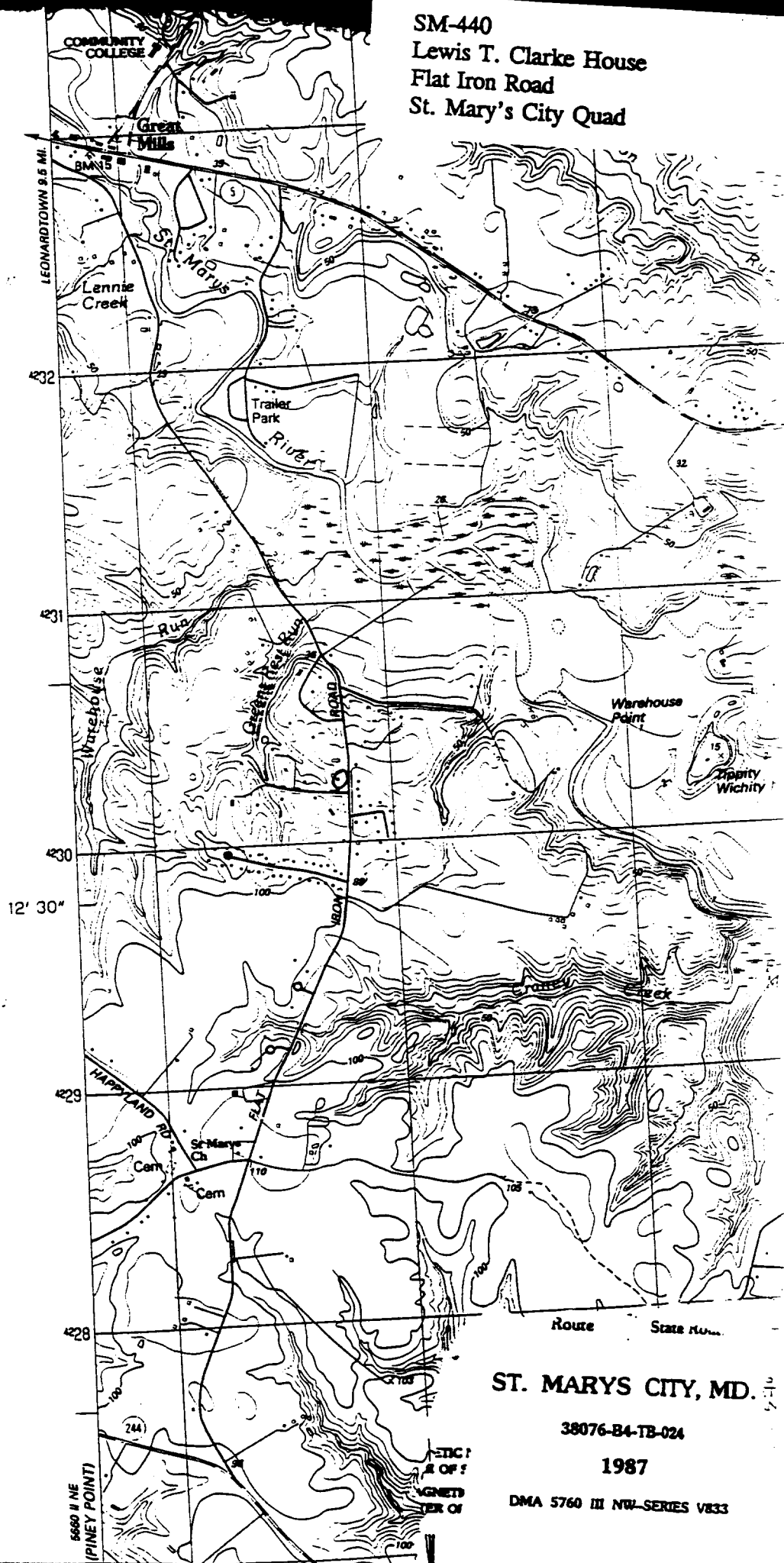
Radford American Homes. Riverside, Ill: Radford Architectural Company, 1903.

Sears, Roebuck, and Company. Sears, Roebuck Catalog of Houses. 1926. New York: Dover Publications Inc. and Athenaeum of Philadelphia, 1991.

Stevenson, Katherine Cole and H. Ward Jandl. Houses By Mail, A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck, and Company. Washington, DC: Preservation Press, 1986.

SM-440

Lewis T. Clarke House
Flat Iron Road
St. Mary's City Quad





SM- 440

Lewis F. Clarke House

St. Mary's County MD

E. Hughes

11/94

MD SHPO

East elevation

1/3



SIL- 440

LEWIS & CLARK

St. Mary's County, MD

C. Hughes

7/1/44

1946 2-18-40

SW 2 1/2 1/2

7/3



SM-440

Lewis T. Clark House

St Mary's County, MD

E. Hughes

11/94

MD 3400

Outbuildings - E. elevation

73